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SOURCE Probleme Economice.NEW METHODS IN RUMANIAN AGRICULTURE

Prof M. Manoliu

The Dokutshayev, Kostatchev, and Vil'yams methods were introduced to promote the development of agriculture in Rumania.

The RPR (Rumanian People's Republic) has devoted special attention to production of manure, crops, land improvements, protective belts, the improvement of plants, raising of animals, and the mechanization of agriculture.

The study of the new methods began in 1949 in the Institute for Agronomic Research at research stations in Marculesti, Studina, Lovrin, Targu-Frumos, and Campia-Turzii. In 1950, studies of the new methods began at the Murfatlar and Valul-lui-Traian stations. The new methods were next introduced at state farms and collectives.

The Vil'yams method of grass planting in the reclamation of soil was introduced to rebuild the soil structure and raise its fertility. Perennial grasses and blends of various grasses were adapted for the various regions of the country.

Improved results were obtained. Thus, at the Marculesti Research Station, situated in an arid region, the harvest surpassed that of individual peasants 280-420 percent.

At the Studina Research Station, unprecedented harvests were obtained. In 1951, according to data from the Institute of Agronomic Research, production records of 5,216 kilograms of corn kernels per hectare, 71,000 kilograms of fodder beets per hectare, and 1,720 kilograms of cotton per hectare were reached.

At the Branceni Experimental Cotton Station, 1,700 kilograms per hectare were obtained in 1951 on the irrigated fields, while the average harvest in the rest of the country was 1,160 kilograms per hectare.

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Applying the teachings of Soviet Academician Ivanov, animal husbandrymen worked on improvement of animal breeds and creation of new, useful types. At the Popauti Experimental Animal Husbandry Station in Botosani, milk production from white steppe cows was increased from 1,518 to 2,383 liters of milk per head by means of rational feeding. A further increase of milk production is being attempted by the crossbreeding of white steppe cows with the red varieties (Swiss). Crossbreeding of horses has also been attempted. Crossbreeding of local varieties of hogs of the "Large White," Mangalita, and York types are being tried to create a better meat animal. Exceptional success has been achieved in the creation of new varieties of sheep.

Studies of fodder and provision of shelters for animals will contribute further to agricultural progress in the RFR.

An agricultural equipment industry, which produced thousands of tractors, mechanical plows, reapers, threshers, binders, and other machines, strengthened agriculture. The machine station of the Institute for Agronomic Research developed a machine that will sow both wheat and perennial grass.

Sovromtractor of Stalin played an important role in the development of tractor production. It is expected that the amount of tractors will grow considerably in the course of the First Five-Year Plan, thus contributing to the expansion of agriculture.

These measures, known as agrominimum and zootechnimum [Soviet animal husbandry techniques], are based on Soviet agronomic methods and will lead to the obtaining of rich harvests to supply the working population with food and industry with raw materials. Many of the collective farms have obtained yields 50-100 percent larger than independent peasants through the use of Michurin principles.

The parched soil of the Dobruja, burnt out by droughts, is being transformed into flourishing orchards in the region of the Danube-Black Sea Canal. Hundreds of square kilometers have been planted with forest belts for protection against drought winds. Tens of thousands of fruit trees and hundreds of hectares of vineyards have also been planted.

Dozens of water-pumping stations, with more than 30,000 meters of pipe for irrigation, have been set up. This irrigation has resulted in improved vegetable crops. In its first year, the collective at Seimeni produced a crop of beans, eggplants, and cabbage twice as large as that of the region as a whole and a crop of potatoes and tomatoes four times as large.

Irrigation of fodder crops was begun.

Numerous tracts of land which were formerly marshland and moors, where fever-spreading mosquitos swarmed, are being transformed into arable land.

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